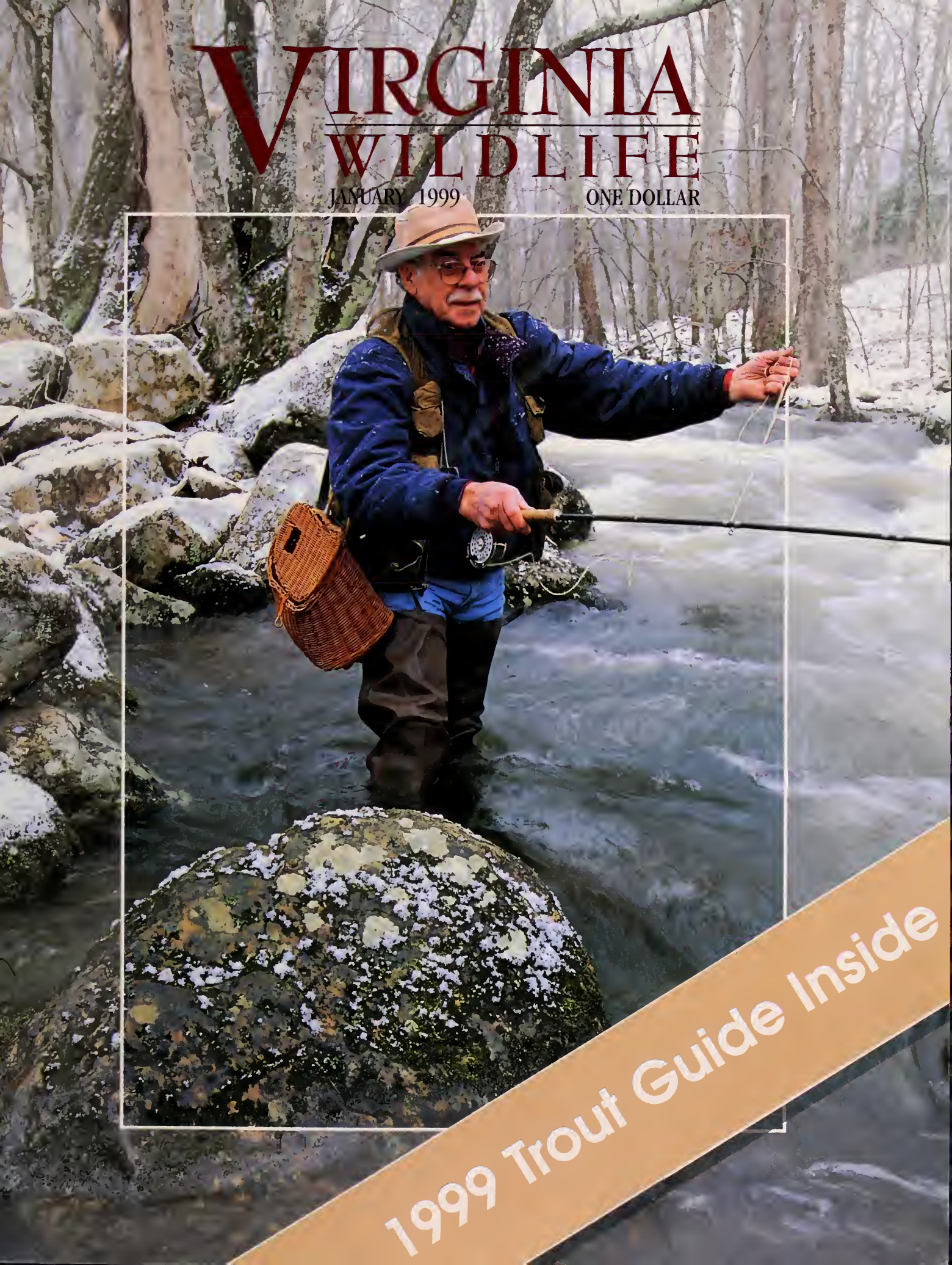
VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

JANUARY 1999 ONE DOLLAR



1999 Trout Guide Inside

Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

My husband's father passed away this past September. My husband kept saying "I should have taken him fishing again," but the time never came.

They had gotten to spend a lot of time together, though, and they had the kind of relationship that many only dream of having.

In a time when it is so easy to get wrapped up in the fast paced world of work and projects, never forget your buddy. You never know if you'll have tomorrow. So go fishing, take a walk in the woods, or stop and admire the wildflowers.

I hope everyone's future will have less "should haves" and more "I'm glad we dids."

Leslie Grace Bowery

Leonard M. Bauserman Sr. (August 2, 1928 - September 21, 1998) seen here sitting in the front of the boat with his son on one of their many fishing trips together.

This letter was received by our magazine editor, and it certainly provides a wonderful perspective for us all to begin a new year. We should take a look at its words as we go through each and every day of 1999 and bring this century to a close.

Many people cannot think of wild places without also thinking of the dad or mom or the grandparents who took them on their first trip into the great outdoors. Those fishing trips, long walks in the woods, or days spent waiting for that big buck to come by are part of the memories that we will cherish forever.

It's also these mentors who taught us how to cast a line, how to identify the different trees by their bark and leaves, how to treat the outdoors with utmost respect that we love and cherish even more than the experiences.

We see people so often, sometimes hear their voices daily, they become for us a sort of landscape and we think of them as enduring as the hills and the sky. But, as it must be, the world changes and we realize that our relationships with people are as changing as the outdoor landscape. Sadly, these realizations often come with regrets. We wish that we had done more; that we had said more. This new year, we at the Department ask you to remember both your loved ones and the wild places of our state. Remember, too, that it's the quiet and beauty of these places that make them ideal for spending time there with those special people in your life.

And most of all, heed the words written to us by Mrs. Bowery and fill your future with less "should haves" and more "I'm glad we dids."

Mission Statement

To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing.

Commonwealth of Virginia
James S. Gilmore III, Governor

HUNTING & FISHING LICENSE FEES
Subsidized this publication

Secretary of Natural Resources
John Paul Woodley, Jr.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
William L. Woodfin, Jr., Director

Members of the Board
J. Carson Quarles, Roanoke
Chairman
Richard L. Corrigan, Arlington
Billy R. Cramer, Vienna
Charles H. Cunningham, Va. Beach
Dan R. McCoy, Big Stone Gap
Charles G. McDaniel, Fredericksburg
Cecil T. Campbell, Warrenton
Kermit Reel, Charlottesville
Jack T. Shoosmith, Chester
Catharine Tucker, Richmond
Robert Wheeler, Crewe

Magazine Staff
Lee Walker, Editor
Mel White, Assistant Editor
Spike Knuth, Assistant Editor
Ron Messina, Assistant Editor
Emily Pels, Art Director
Carol Kushlak, Production Assistant
Marika Byrd,CPS, Office Manager
Staff Contributors: George Duckwall, William Kittrell, Larry Mohn

Color separations and printing by Nittany Valley Offset, State College, PA.

Photography by Blackhawk Productions, Dwight Dyke, Richmond VA..

Virginia Wildlife (ISSN 0042 6792) is published monthly by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Send all subscription orders and address changes to *Virginia Wildlife*, P.O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477. Address all other communications concerning this publication to *Virginia Wildlife*, P.O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104. Subscription rate is $10.00 for one year, $24.00 for three years; $1.00 per each back issue, subject to availability. Out-of-country rates are the same but must be paid in U.S. funds. To subscribe, call toll-free (800) 710-9369. Postmaster: Please send all address changes to *Virginia Wildlife*, P.O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477. Postage for periodicals paid at Richmond, Virginia and additional entry offices.

Copyright 1999 by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. All rights reserved.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN: Compliance Officer, 4010 West Broad Street. P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104.

©Spike Knuth

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Cover: No matter if it's raining, snowing or a picture perfect day, fishing on Big Tumbling Creek within the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area is always worth the trip. Photo by Dwight Dyke.

Features

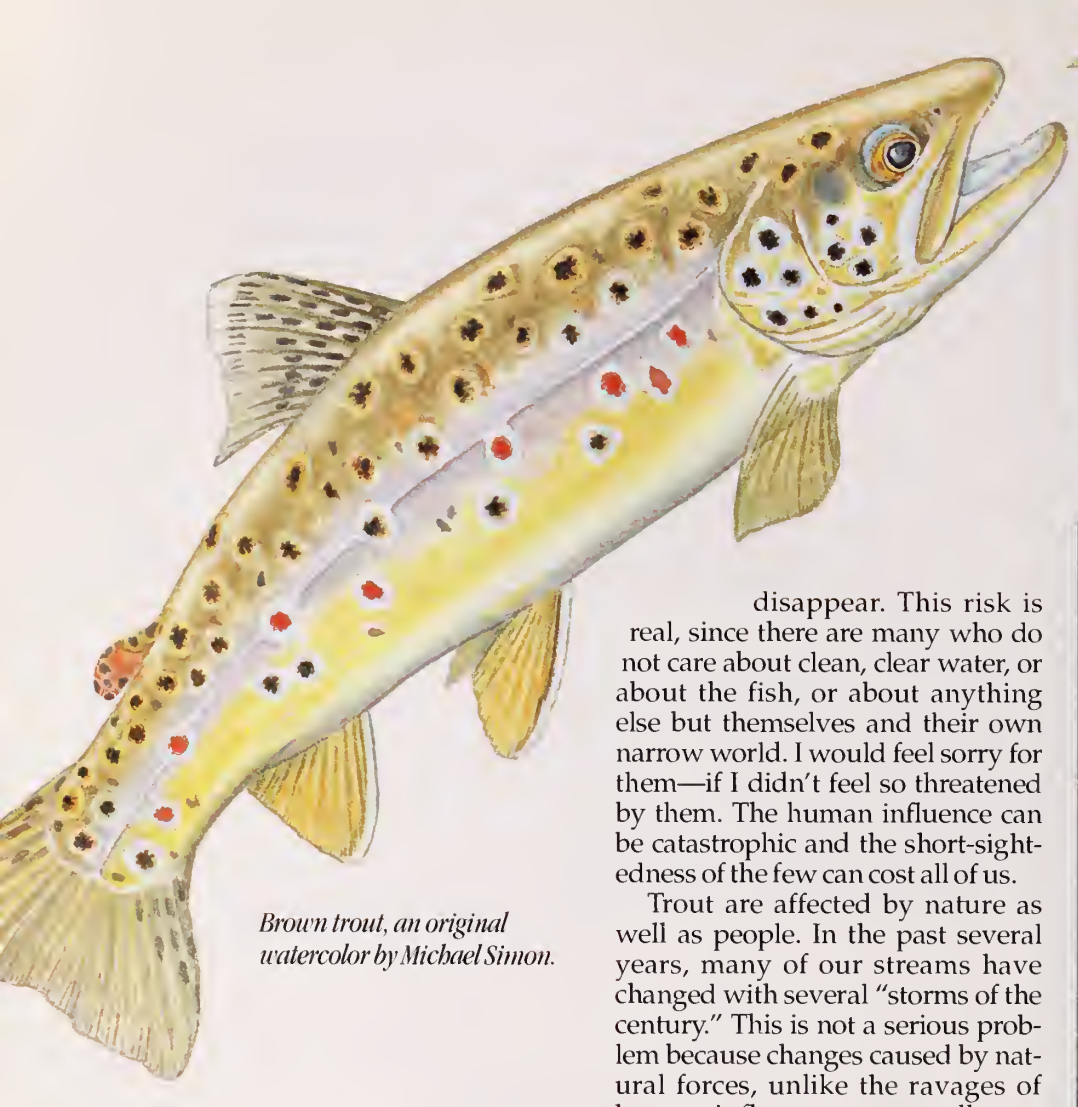
4 **Mind Trout** by King Mongtomery
What is the lure of these colorful fish?

7 **1999 Trout Guide** by Larry Mohn
Introduction
New for 1999
Catchable Trout Stocking Program
Urban Fishing
Special Regulations
Catchable Trout Stocking Plan
Trout Species of Virginia
Fingerling Stocking Program
License Requirements
Area Maps

30 **Clinch Mountain Fee Area Angler Survey**
by William B. Kittrell, Jr.
If you stock it, they will come. The proof is in the stream.

January Journal

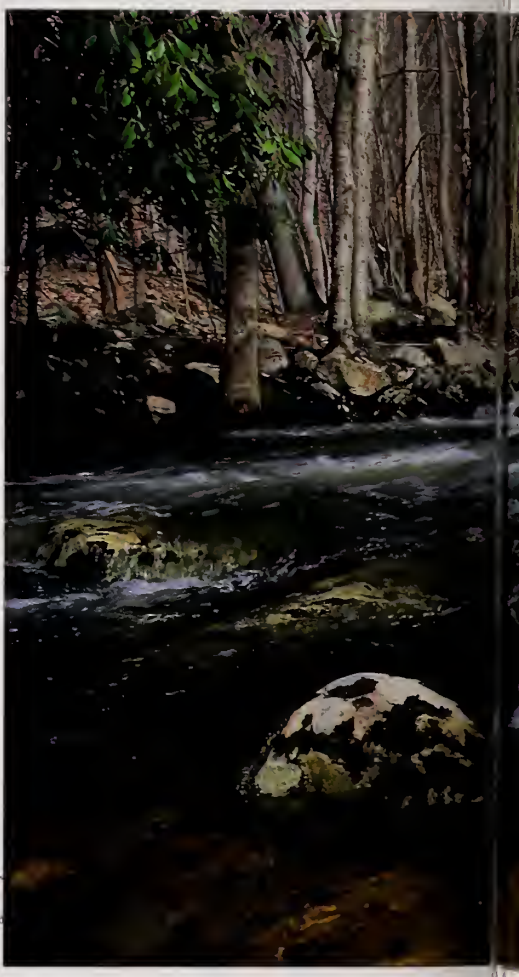
32 Journal
33 Recipes
34 Photo Tips



Brown trout, an original watercolor by Michael Simon.

Mind

by King Montgomery



©Dwight Dyke

To people concerned about them, trout are as much a state of mind as they are anything else. And, since none of our minds are quite the same, trout mean different things to different people. To some they are noble quarry to be pursued with fly or lure, and gently released after capture; to others they are targets for the frying pan, to be caught on cheese balls, nightcrawlers, or whatever else; and to yet others, trout transcend the world of fishing to represent the wild, the beautiful, and the fragile; almost an allegory for life itself.

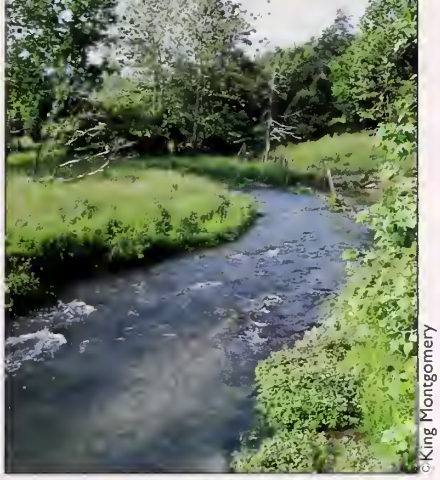
Trout need cool, clear, and well-oxygenated water, relatively free from our pollutants. If these conditions are not present, the trout will disappear. This risk is real, since there are many who do not care about clean, clear water, or about the fish, or about anything else but themselves and their own narrow world. I would feel sorry for them—if I didn't feel so threatened by them. The human influence can be catastrophic and the short-sightedness of the few can cost all of us.

Trout are affected by nature as well as people. In the past several years, many of our streams have changed with several "storms of the century." This is not a serious problem because changes caused by natural forces, unlike the ravages of human influence, are usually not bad in the longer term since nature usually heals itself to a point where the landscape is just as good as it was, or better, but never the same as before.

Virginia's Christopher Camuto, a respected writer and teacher, tells of his return to the North Fork of the Moormans River after the severe floods a few years ago. He reports in the autumn issue of Trout Unlimited's *Trout* magazine, that after the landslides, scouring, and channelization caused by the inundation, where forest still closed around it, the river held trout and other fish. And signs of caddis, mayflies, and stoneflies were everywhere. Chris says, "despite the natural disaster…the watershed was intact, the landscape whole." And, "if the same grove of hemlock that shades a pool for trout also harbors Blackburnian warblers, that's a correspondence worth noting, enjoying, and perhaps thinking about."

The Old Dominion has 2,800 miles of trout streams, of which 2,300 miles hold wild fish. Although affected by nature and threatened by mankind, the streams are healthy, full of fish, and ready to provide quality outdoor experiences to those who feel they need moving water to stir their soul.

Trout



©King Montgomery

In my mind, trout angling is not just about fish. But trout certainly are an integral part of the outdoors experience and each of Virginia's big three trout species have personalities all their own.

Brook trout are our only native species. They comprise the majority of the Old Dominion's wild trout populations, many of which are found in the Shenandoah National Park, in national forests, and in state forests and parks as well. Brookies prefer cool, shaded mountain streams; fortunately they have a fine selection in Virginia. These beautiful animals merit their designation as Virginia's state fish.

Rainbow trout are transplants from Western watersheds and, in addition to being heavily stocked throughout the Commonwealth, have established some wild presence where conditions are favorable for spawning. They come readily to lure or fly, grow large in fertile streams, and do indeed reflect the colors of the rainbow from their silvery skin.

Brown trout, hearty creatures native to Europe and Great Britain, were introduced to our streams around the turn of the century. They continue to form a significant leg of Virginia's trout triad. They are both stocked and wild and are known as the wiliest of the three species.

The trout are there. The birds and insects are there. The trees will shade you and the flowers and shrubs will delight you. It all awaits. Tread softly, look around often, and enjoy beautiful Virginia. Do us all a favor and carry a plastic trash bag in your pocket or vest, and clean up after

Trout fishing means many things to many people, but the end product for those who choose to pursue these delicate creatures means hours of relaxation, a smidgen of education, and most importantly lots of fun.

Right: Rainbow trout, an original watercolor by Duane Raver.

some of those who preceded you. Leave nothing but respect and maybe a few footprints. □

King Montgomery, an award-winning outdoor writer, is a field editor for Virginia Outdoor Weekly *and a contributing editor for* Fly Fish America *magazine. He is a frequent contributor to* Virginia Wildlife.

©King Montgomery

Take the time to make sure that when you leave your favorite trout stream or lake leave only memories. For those who are not as caring, take the time to clean up after them. If you don't, who will!

©King Montgomery

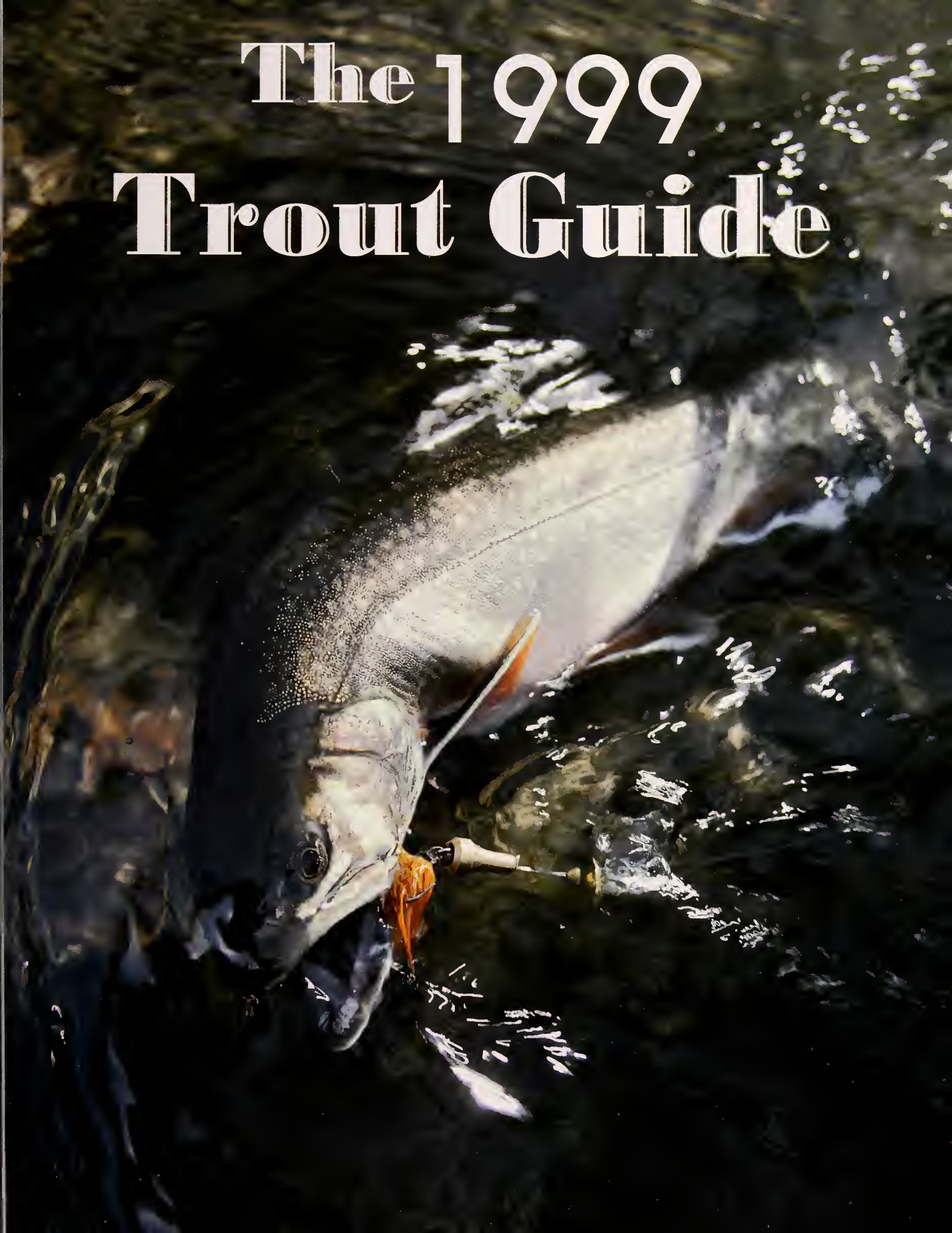
Keep Our Streams Clean

The following is from the October 19, 1998, issue of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Outdoor Report: "The lower section of Little Reed Island Creek in Carroll County, along State Route 769, has been dropped from the stocked trout program [because] excessive littering, dumping, and trespassing have created an unacceptable condition for landowners."

Respect the rights of others and don't trash public or private property. Clean up after yourself and others, too.

Brook trout, an original watercolor by Michael Simon.

The 1999 Trout Guide



by Larry Mohn
VDGIF Fisheries Regional Manager

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes and reservoirs. The total includes over 2300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valley between these ranges contains the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The *catchable trout stocking program* is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the following *Trout Stocking Plan* on pages 12-13 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The *wild trout program* includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The *fingerling trout stocking program* involves sublegal trout stockings. This relatively small program is rapidly growing in size and popularity due to the high quality trout fishing it provides.

Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

Rainbow trout, an original oil painting by Ken Hunter.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 25 in this special issue.

New For 1999

Quite a few changes have been made to the trout program for 1999, including changes in both regulations and sections of waters stocked with trout. A number of new, special regulation waters have been added or expanded. Under our special regulations for wild trout streams, the special regulation on Whitetop Laurel in Washington County has been expanded to include a two mile section from Taylor Valley to Straight Creek and North Creek in Botetourt County has been expanded slightly and changed to a catch-and-release regulation. Under our trophy trout waters program, we have added a section of the Pound River below Flannagan Dam and the upper portion of Roaring Fork in Botetourt County. In addition, we have expanded the trophy section on the South Fork of Holston River in Smyth County to include the gorge area above Buller Hatchery. Finally, we have added two streams to our delayed harvest program: Holliday Creek in Appomattox County becomes only our second special regulation trout stream east of the traditional trout counties and Pedlar River below the Lynchburg Reservoir will provide a remote, scenic trout fishing opportunity near Lynchburg. A more detailed description of these new waters can be found on the following pages.

A number of changes have occurred in the trout stocking plan. One new water, Pandapas Pond in Montgomery County, has been added and Hone Quarry Lake, which has been unavailable for stocking since the September, 1996 flood, is now fully open to the public and will be stocked. The lower two miles of the fee fishing area of Big Tumbling Creek will now be stocked during the non-fee season.

From October through March this stream can be fished without a daily permit but a trout license is required. The upper section of the Middle Fork Holston River has been upgraded to Category B and Big Wilson Creek has been upgraded to Category A. This will mean additional stockings for both of these waters. On the negative side, approximately one mile sections of both Potts Creek in Craig County and Little Reed Island Creek in Carroll County have been posted. In addition, anglers should note that Hunting Creek in Bedford County and Lynch River in Greene County were posted last year and no longer appear on the stocking list.

At the fee fishing areas, official starting times have been established for this year, with each facility opening at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday in April. These three areas provide an opening day for those anglers who would like to take advantage of the opportunity. At the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area, Laurel Bed Lake has been dropped from the fee requirement. The lake will continue to be managed for trout but anglers will not need a daily permit or a trout license.

Finally, the Department adopted a regulation that covers all fishemen concerning altering fish while on the water. Trout anglers must be careful how they clean their fish while still in the field. Fish may be gutted but anglers cannot remove the head or tail or fillet the fish. The fish must remain in a condition where it can be identified to species and measured.

Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-n-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank, and Wytheville. Three additional rearing facilities are located at Marion, Williamsville and Montebello.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock in early fall at the hatcheries, and placed in hatching jars which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Jars must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25 to 30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2-3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9-11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

©Dwight Dyke

Young or old, people who live near Virginia's urban and suburban areas can find excellent opportunities to experience some quality angling through Virginia's Urban Fishing Program.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, all streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued after late May or early June and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various intervals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the following *Trout Stocking Plan*. The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information or 1-804-525-FISH for daily trout stocking updates during stocking season.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Urban Fishing

The Department's Urban Fishing Program was launched in December 1993. This program is designed to provide high-quality fishing opportunities for anglers in urban and suburban areas. Currently, the program includes the stocking of six lakes: Cook Lake (Cameron Run Regional Park) in Alexandria, Locust Shade Pond in Prince William County, Dorey Park Lake in Henrico County, Shields Lake (Byrd Park) in Richmond, Lake Biggins (Huntington Park) in Newport News, and Northwest River Park in Chesapeake. Catchable trout are stocked at all sites from November through April, and channel catfish are stocked during warm weather months at Locust Shade, Dorey, and Byrd. This program is co-sponsored by the recreation department in each locality.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-n-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and through October at Douthat. For those anglers who miss the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout stamp is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is six fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. For 1999, Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, five miles east of Galax. The area consists of five miles of stream, which is stocked. In addition, approximately two miles of the stream are managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. Surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No facilities are available at Crooked Creek for camping, but private facilities are available nearby.

Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area was expanded several years ago to include about four miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate . A small children-only area has been established on Wilson Creek just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, pickerel, and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During late summer, conditions often become unsuitable for trout and stocking is discontinued. During these periods, the daily permit is not required. The lake, stream and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

In 1989, the Department initiated this management program with establishment of Virginia's first "delayed harvest" trout fishery. This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-n-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter and spring. From October 1 through the following May 31, only single hook artificial lures may be used and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30, general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. The program has been expanded from six streams to eight streams for 1999.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools and has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor

games, and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove then right on Route 600 for six miles.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section is new for 1999 and stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15-25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn on to Routes 640, 614 or 692 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Forestry Department. Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quaility of the fishing experience available.

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam, and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream should provide high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately one mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-n-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Rt. 613.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is located below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest southeast of Buena Vista. The stream is new for 1999 and is very remote in this section. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring and early summer months and provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off of Route 607.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.

Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

A number of changes have occurred in the trout stocking plan for 1999. One new water, Pandapas Pond in Montgomery County, has been added to the program. This six acre lake is located on the Jefferson National Forest just west of Blacksburg off of Route 460. Hone Quarry Lake, which has been unavailable for stocking since the September, 1996 flood, is now fully open to the public and began receiving trout during the fall stocking period. Within the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area, the lower two miles of Big Tumbling Creek will now be stocked as a Category A water after the fee season ends on September 30. From October through March this stream can be fished without a daily permit but a trout license is required. The upper section of the Middle Fork Holston River in Smyth County has been upgraded to Category B and Big Wilson Creek in Grayson County has been upgraded to Category A. This will mean additional stockings for both of these waters. On the negative side, an approximately one mile section in the middle of the stocked portion of Potts Creek in Craig County has been posted and the lower section of Little Reed Island Creek in Carroll County along Route 769 has been posted. In addition, anglers should note that Hunting Creek in Bedford County and Lynch River in Greene County were posted last year and no longer appear on the stocking list.

Catchable Trout

These waters require a trout license betwee

	Category of Water	
ALBEMARLE COUNTY		
N. Fk. Moormans River	B	(NSF)
S. Fk. Moormans River	B	(NSF)
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	
ALEXANDRIA CITY		
Cook Lake	U	
ALLEGHANY COUNTY		
Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Jerrys Run*	C	
AMHERST COUNTY		
Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	
Pedlar River (Blw dam)*	DH	
APPOMATTOX COUNTY		
Holliday Creek	DH	
AUGUSTA COUNTY		
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	
North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River	DH	
Mills Creek*	C	
Braley Pond*	A	
Back Creek*	B	
Upper Sherando Lake*	A	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Hearthstone Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
BATH COUNTY		
Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	B	
Pads Creek*	C	
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Bullpasture River	A	
Spring Run	A	
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*		
BEDFORD COUNTY		
Liberty Lake	B	
BLAND COUNTY		
Lick Creek	B	
Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Wolf Creek	A	
BOTETOURT COUNTY		
Jennings Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Middle Creek*	B	
McFalls Creek*	C	
Roaring Run*	B	
BUCHANAN COUNTY		
Dismal River	B	
Russell Fork River	C	
CARROLL COUNTY		
Crooked Creek	A	**
Laurel Fork	A	
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)
CHESAPEAKE CITY		
Northwest River Park	U	
CRAIG COUNTY		
Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
North Fork Barbours Creek*	C	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	
DICKENSON COUNTY		
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Pound River (Flannigan Dam)	A	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	
Cranesnest River	B	
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Accotink Creek	DH	
FAUQUIER COUNTY		
Thompson WMA Pond	B	
FLOYD COUNTY		
Mira Fork	B	(NSF)
Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	C	
Howell Creek	B	(NSF)
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Laurel Fork	B	
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Maggadee Creek	B	
Runnett Bag Creek	B	
FREDERICK COUNTY		
Winchester Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Clearbrook Lake	A	
GILES COUNTY		
Big Stoney Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	(NSF)
GRAYSON COUNTY		
Big Wilson Creek	A	
Middle Fox Creek	B	
Fox Creek*	B	
Elk Creek		
Helton Creek		
Hales Lake*		
GREENE COUNTY		
South River		
HENRICO COUNTY		
Dorey Park Lake		
HENRY COUNTY		
Smith River (Dam)		
Smith River (Lower)		
HIGHLAND COUNTY		
Bullpasture River		
S. Br. Potomac River		
LEE COUNTY		
Martins Creek		
North Fork Powell River		
MADISON COUNTY		
Hughes River		
Robinson River		
Rose River		
MONTGOMERY COUNTY		
Craig Creek*		
Poverty Creek*		
South Fork Roanoke River		
Toms Creek		
Pandapas Pond*		
NELSON COUNTY		
Tye River		
South Rockfish River		
NEWPORT NEWS CITY		
Biggins Lake		
PAGE COUNTY		
Cub Run*		
Upper Passage Creek*		
PATRICK COUNTY		
Ararat River		
Clarks Creek		
Dan River (Above Talbott)		
Dan River (Below Powerhou		
N. Fk. South Mayo River		
South Mayo River		
Rockcastle Creek		
Round Meadow Creek		
Poorhouse Creek		
PRINCE WILLIAM COUN		
Locust Shade Park		
Quantico MCB		
PULASKI COUNTY		
Peak Creek		
RICHMOND CITY		
Shield Lake		

Stocking Plan

October 1 and June 16 (Urban waters 11/1 – 4/30)

Category of Water			Category of Water
		ROANOKE COUNTY	
A		Glade Creek	A
C		Roanoke River (City)	A
A		Tinker Creek	A
		Roanoke River (Salem)	A
B			
		ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY	
U		Mill Creek*	A
		Irish Creek*	B
		South River	B
B		Maury River	A
A			
		ROCKINGHAM COUNTY	
		N.Fk. Shenandoah River	B
A		German River	C
B		Dry River	B (NSF)
		Silver Lake	B
A		Shoemaker River	C
A		Briery Branch Lake*	A
		Hone Quarry Lake*	A
		Hone Quarry Run*	C
A		Slate Lick Lake*	B
A		Slate Lick Run*	B
A		South River (Grottoes)	A
		RUSSELL COUNTY	
B		Big Cedar Creek	A
C			
A		**SCOTT COUNTY**	
B		Little Stony Creek*	B
B		Stock Creek	C
		Big Stony Creek	B
		Straight Fork (Lower)	C
A		Bark Camp Lake*	A
C	(NSF)		
		SHENANDOAH COUNTY	
		Stony Creek	A
U		Mill Creek	B
		Peters Mill Creek*	C
B		Tomahawk Pond*	B
C		Passage Creek*	A
		Little Passage Creek*	C
B		**SMYTH COUNTY**	
B		S. Fk. Holston River (Lower)	A
B	(NSF)	Staley Creek	B
A		S. Fk. Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A
C		Comers Creek*	C
C		Hurricane Creek*	C
B		Cressy Creek*	C
C	(NSF)	Dickey Creek*	C
C	(NSF)	Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A
		Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B
U		**TAZEWELL COUNTY**	
B	(NSF)	Laurel Creek*	C
		Roaring Fork*	C
B		Little Tumbling Creek	B
		Lake Witten	A
		Lincolnshire Lake	A
U			

	Category of Water	
WARREN COUNTY		
Happy Creek	B	
Passage Creek	DH	
WASHINGTON COUNTY		
Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	
Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
Tennessee Laurel	A	
Big Brumley Creek	C	
Valley Creek	C	
Big Tumbling Creek	A	**
Straight Branch*	C	
Beartree Lake*	A	
WISE COUNTY		
Clear Creek*	C	
Middle Fork Powell River	B	
Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	
WYTHE COUNTY		
Stoney Creek*	C	
Gullion Fork Creek*	C	
Gullion Fork Ponds	C	
West Fork Reed Creek*	C	
Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	
Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A	

Category A, stocked once in each of the following periods: October; November/December; January/February; March (twice); April (twice); May (twice)

Category B, stocked once during each of the following periods: November/December; January/February; March; April-May 15 (twice)

Category C, one stocking in each of the following periods: November/December; March; April

*	National Forest Waters
+	Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B Put & Take water after fee fishing season
DH	Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.
(NSF)	These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings
U	Urban fishing waters, trout license required November 1 through April 30, stocked 10 times
**	A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

Stocking information for put-n-take stocking can be obtained by calling **1-804-525-FISH (525-3474)** or for hearing impaired **1-804-525-4071.** The recording is updated after 4 p.m. each day fish are stocked.

Trout illustrations above by Spike Knuth.

Trout Species of Virginia

Trout belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae) which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish and grayling.

Brook Trout
(Salvelinus fontinalis)

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line and reddish coloration.

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America, New Zealand and Asia. No other species of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small streams, usually near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. An average female in Virginia lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch two to three months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. The life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia and some streams contain occasional trout of 12 to 16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates; minnows, salamanders and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams common to Virginia. Therefore, fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. **State Record:** 5 lbs., 10 ozs., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.

Rainbow Trout
(Onchorynchus mykiss)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia, Europe and Hawaii. In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is limited, with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have dis-

(Right) Brown trout, an original oil painting by Ken Hunter. (Far right) Brook trout, an original oil painting by Ken Hunter.

placed the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, the time of spawning can vary greatly between populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time, however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs, depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and therefore slightly more difficult to catch.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. **State Record:** 14 lbs. 7 ozs., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.

Brown Trout

(Salmo trutta)

Coloration: The dorsal area of this fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, southern Canada and the Rocky Mountains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In Virginia, the brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occurring in the Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick County areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many larger, wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats, often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is longer than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10 to 15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will occasionally produce brown trout over 20 inches.

Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders, frogs, rodents, and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. **State Record:** 14 lbs. 12 ozs., South Fork Holston River.

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout can not compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover such as undercut banks, large rocks or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past two decades, physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in some other states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8 to 10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creeled in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations require the use of single hook artificial lures and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tributaries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off of Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo Creek is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population with numerous fish 8 to 10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Big and Little Wilson Creeks provide the opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow and brook trout. Brook trout are primarily restricted to the headwaters of both streams and their tributaries. Rainbow trout can be found throughout the area. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders predominate the stream channel, interspersed with deep pools associated with a steep gradient. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands

State Park or Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7 to 11 inches in length, brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The Dan River in Patrick County, from the Pinnacles Powerhouse to Townes Dam, is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Reproducing brown trout are the dominant species in the lower reaches of the section, while wild brook trout are found in the upper reaches. This three-mile section of the Dan River has been subjected to very low flows for years, however, a new agreement with the City of Danville has resulted in greatly improved flows. The special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 8 south of Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse. In addition, the section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn left on Route 602 from Route 614 and proceed to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge at the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, has been designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream and is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8-13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7 to 12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7 to 10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) has been designated a catch-and-release trout stream for 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present in the headwater tributaries. Adult trout will range from 7 to 12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. The stream has historically contained an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8 to 12 inches. In addition, a small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. However, this drainage was struck with devastating floods during June, 1995. The stream suffered significant habitat damage and resident trout populations have been severely reduced. Brook trout populations have continued to improve and fishing should be much improved in 1999. Access to the Moormans River is available over State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir, but much of the streamside trail no longer exists.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on State Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best-known trout stream. Not only

was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10 to 11-inch adults.

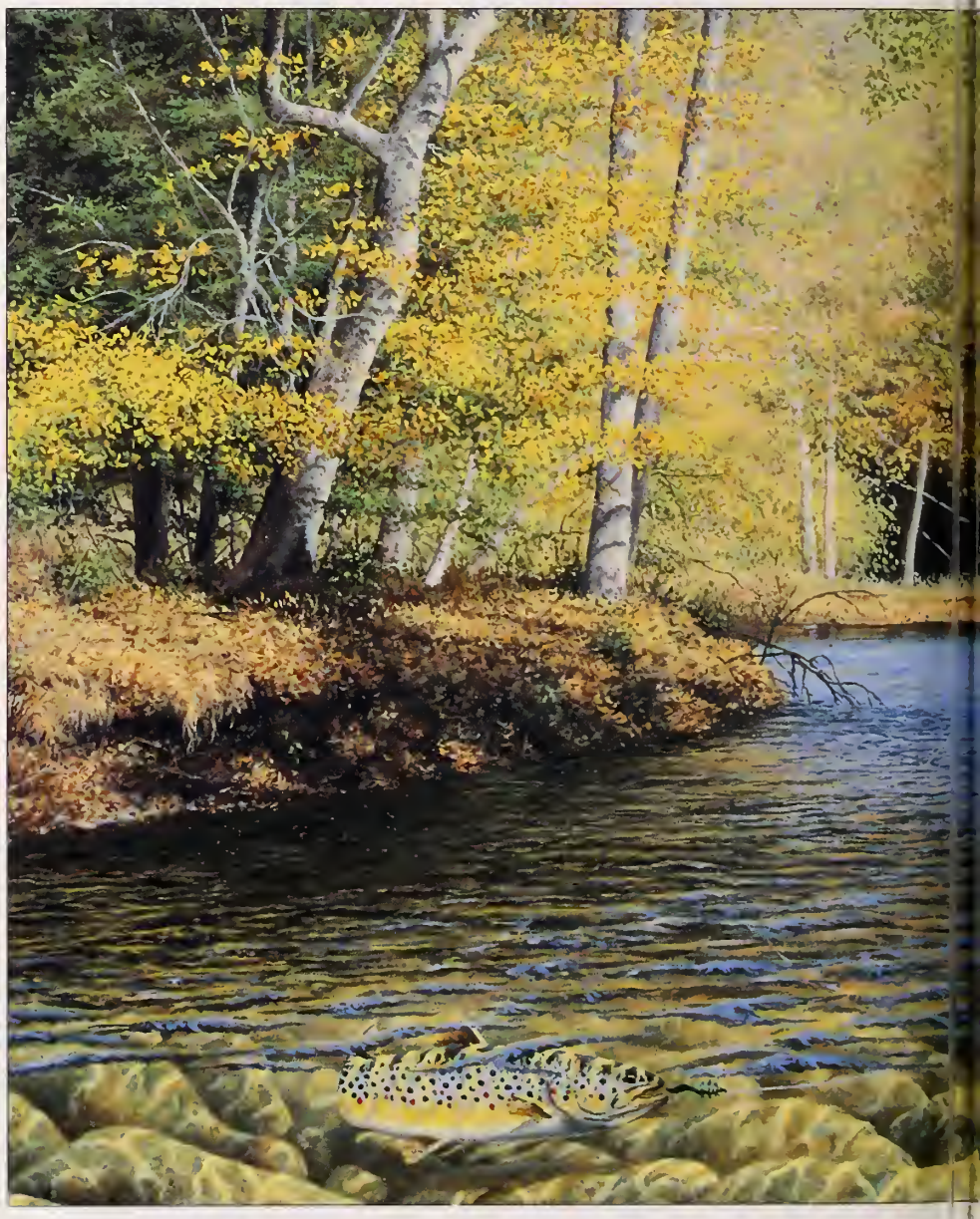
This stream drainage was hit by devastating floods in June, 1995 and September, 1996. Stream habitat was severely impacted along the lower reaches and in one tributary, the Staunton River. Impacts to the resident trout population was severe in the Staunton River and lower reaches of the Rapidan and populations have not yet fully recovered. Trout populations in the upper Rapidan and other tributaries remain good. Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8 to 12 inches in length. Due to acidification of the stream in recent years, brook trout have replaced rainbows as the dominant trout species. The stream lies east of Raphine off of Route 608 a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular .



South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

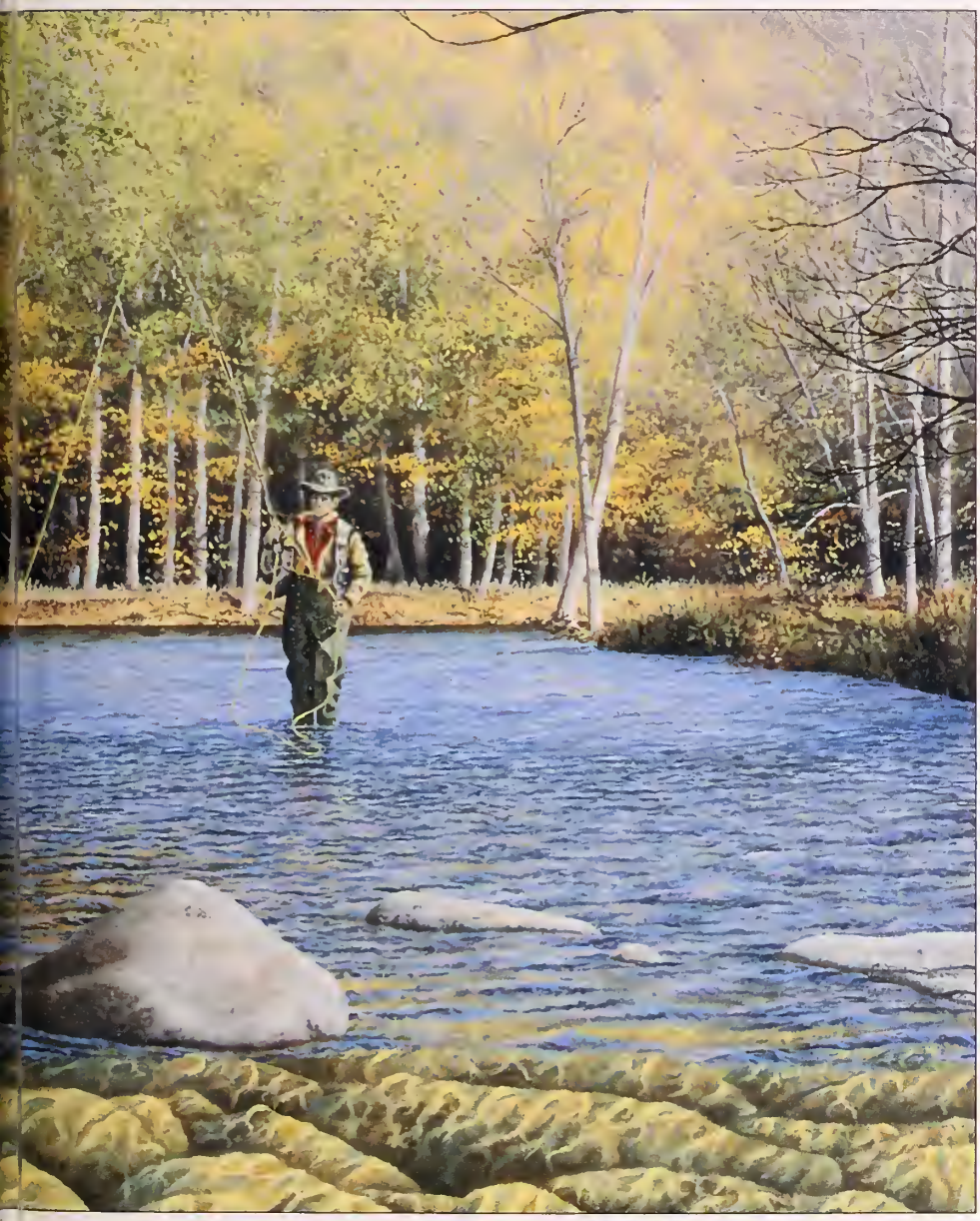
This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the catch-and-release trout fisheries. It is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges, and a dense

rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing as part of the Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area.

Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.



Trout fisherman and brown trout, an original oil painting by Ken Hunter.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to this year, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley made up the special regulation area. For 1999, an additional section that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, two miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek has been added. There will remain a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7 to 14-inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus near the Tennessee line and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Park regulations were modified in 1996 and most streams are now open to fishing. However, only a portion of those streams open to angling allow for the harvesting of trout. Check with SNP for their annual list of streams where harvesting is permitted. All fishing in the Park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest, the creel limit is six trout per day, all of which must be nine inches or more in length. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs, but also the fastest growing. Established in the mid-1970s, it is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters and spring-fed streams, to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible, due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat, and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special regulation gear restrictions imposed are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put-n-take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is growing. VDGIF recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see *Trout Stocking Plan*), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-n-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and three reservoirs deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. These two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish such as bass, bluegill, crappie and catfish exist, and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Workers at the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area are preparing to stock brook trout into Laurel Bed Lake. This mountaintop impoundment is located within the management area. (Right) Just one of the many beautiful rock outcroppings located on John W. Flannagan Reservoir. This impoundment is managed as a trophy trout fishery.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until this year, Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but starting in January 1999, fishing in the lake will no longer require a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, mealworms, flies and spinners. Minnows are not allowed at the lake in order to prevent introduction of other fish species. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-n-

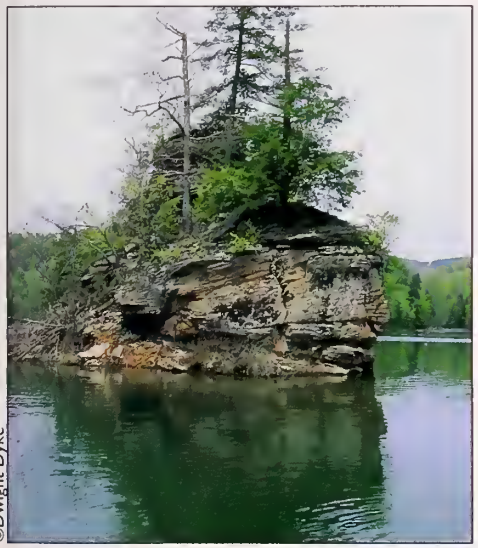
grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9 to 13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect and no trout stamp is required. However, a one dollar daily use permit is required from Lexington Public Works Department (540) 463-3154.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County Water Supply Reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-n-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10 to 12-inch brook trout.


©Dwight Dyke

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Pedlar Ranger District in Buena Vista at (540) 261-6105. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off of Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976 and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish in the 8 to 14-inch range. In addition, occasional large brook trout of 2 to 3 pounds have been taken. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Trophy Trout Lakes

Regulations on the following two-story reservoirs were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of these lakes to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit on these reservoirs was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches. These changes have resulted in the availability of many more large trout.

John W. Flannagan Reservoir (Dickenson County)

This 1143-acre, Army Corps of Engineers reservoir is located in the Cumberland Mountains near the Virginia-Kentucky state line. Nearly 50 miles of rugged shoreline terrain surround the lake perimeter. The maximum lake depth is 166 feet with an average depth of 59 feet. Beginning in October of each year, the lake level is dropped 16 feet below the normal summer pool. These conditions remain throughout the winter months until early spring.

The lake was managed primarily as a put-n-take fishery for rainbow trout from 1966 to 1976. In 1991, stocking resumed to establish the lake as a trophy fishery. Subcatchable McConaughy rainbow and Crawford brown trout are now stocked yearly and trout in excess of four pounds have been collected.

Any good shad imitation fished below 35 feet should entice these trout to hit. In the spring, early summer and late fall trout should be found throughout the entire lake. However, after August 1 fishing the main body of the lake from the junction boat ramp to the dam is recommended.

Several launching ramps exist and boat access areas are provided at the spillway, lower Twin Area, junction area and both the Cranesnest and Pound River areas. Campgrounds are also available. Contact the U.S. Corps of Engineers, John W. Flannagan Dam and Reservoir, Route 1, Box 268, Haysi, VA 24256-9736, (540) 835-9544.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot drawdown by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and McConaughy strain of rainbow trout.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of trout over 5 pounds reported caught in 1998. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography, and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at

©Dwight Dyke

Lake Moomaw is not only known for its beautiful location, but also for some of the best brown trout fishing in the Commonwealth.

Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat, or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point, and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license or National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina, and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping, and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Philpott Reservoir (Henry County)

Philpott Lake is a 2880-acre reservoir located west of Martinsville. Warmwater fishing is the major attraction, but trout are also stocked annually. Stockings generally consist of 8 to 9-inch McConaughy rainbow trout released in the fall of the year. Fishing success has been highly variable, probably due to the varying volume of the summer coldwater habitat available. Trout can be caught throughout the lake during spring, fall, and winter, but during summer months most successful fishermen fish deep at night. Philpott generally produces some of the larger rainbow trout taken each year, with catches up to 7 to 8 pounds.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River below Gathright Dam provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about three mile intervals. Several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Many other landowners have used that legal decision to also post their sections of river. Because of the proliferation of posting and legal challenges by riparian landowners, the Department has discontinued its stocking program until such time that legal questions are resolved or the landowners allow public fishing.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of four trout per day over 12 inches in length. Fishing on this portion of the Jackson River remains fairly good, but without additional stocking the trout population will continue to decline significantly.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6 to 8-inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary above the old C & O Dam upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, subcatchable brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8 to 12-inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hull Ford

and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. Holdover of stocked fish is good along with a fair population of native brook trout.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek, Sinking Creek, and Smith Creek, furthermore, are restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6") in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the VDGIF office in Verona *(please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope)*. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables and good numbers of 10 to 16-inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5 to 8-pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately six miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8 to 12-inch size range and brown trout in the 8 to 18-inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from the Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

The regulations for this section of the Jackson River were changed in 1997. To take advantage of the growth potential of the stream, the size limit for taking trout was increased to 16 inches and the daily creel reduced to two. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge located just above the mouth of Muddy Run, upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off of Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off of Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the VDGIF office in Verona. *You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope*). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3 to 7-pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This new special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains, the scenic tailwater fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam will remain in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings will be stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This section of the Pound River can be accessed from Flannagan Dam which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section is new for 1999. The one mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt/Alleghany county line. The lower section of Roaring Run within the National Forest will remain put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section will be developed using fingerling trout stockings. Trophy trout greater than 16 inches in length will not likely be available to anglers for 3 to 4 years. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off of US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Sinking Creek (Giles County)

The special area is now restricted to the Giles County section only, due to newly posted land in Craig County. The section extends from a cable with VDGIF sign 0.4 miles below the State Route 703 low-water bridge, upstream 1.8 miles to a cable with VDGIF sign (which is 0.1 mile above the Reynolds farm covered bridge). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually and angling is restricted to fly-fishing only. A fishing permit is required for this stream. Permits may be obtained at the VDGIF office in Blacksburg, locally at the Super Value Grocery Store in Newport, and at the Orvis Shop in Roanoke.

Smith Creek (Rockingham County)

The special section includes approximately 1.5 miles of stream near Lacy Spring. Smith Creek flows through private farmland and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from VDGIF office in Verona *(must include a self-addressed, stamp envelope)*. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked annually in the fall and good numbers of rainbow trout are available as a result of a private hatchery upstream. Trout of 10 to 16 inches are available and fish over 4 pounds have been reported.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special area includes the posted section extending 3 miles downstream from Towne Creek near the town of Bassett. Smith River is Virginia's most noted trophy trout stream. The historic state record 18 pound, 11 ounce brown trout was taken in 1979 and numerous trout exceeding 10 pounds have been caught. Smith River is a large, flat, tailwater stream receiving coldwater discharges from Philpott Dam.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area has been expanded for 1999 and now includes approximately four miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail. The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10 to 14-inch trout and some trout in excess of the 16-inch minimum size limit are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a *state fishing license* to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the *Trout Stocking Plan*) must have an additional *trout license*. A *National Forest Stamp* is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington or Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulations areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a *trout license*. However, some of the special regulation areas require a *signed landowner permit card* which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a *non-resident state fishing license* (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a *non-resident trout license*, and a *National Forest Stamp* (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a *non-resident state fishing license*, the appropriate *National Forest Stamp* and *landowner permit cards*.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a *state fishing license* and a *daily fishing permit* that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) $5 *senior lifetime fishing licenses* do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Plus, Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a *National Forest Stamp*.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions, and season lengths.

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-1000/VTDD

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
540/248-9360

Vinton
209 East Cleveland Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179
540/857-7704

Blacksburg
2001 South Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540/951-7923

Lynchburg
910 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
804/525-7522

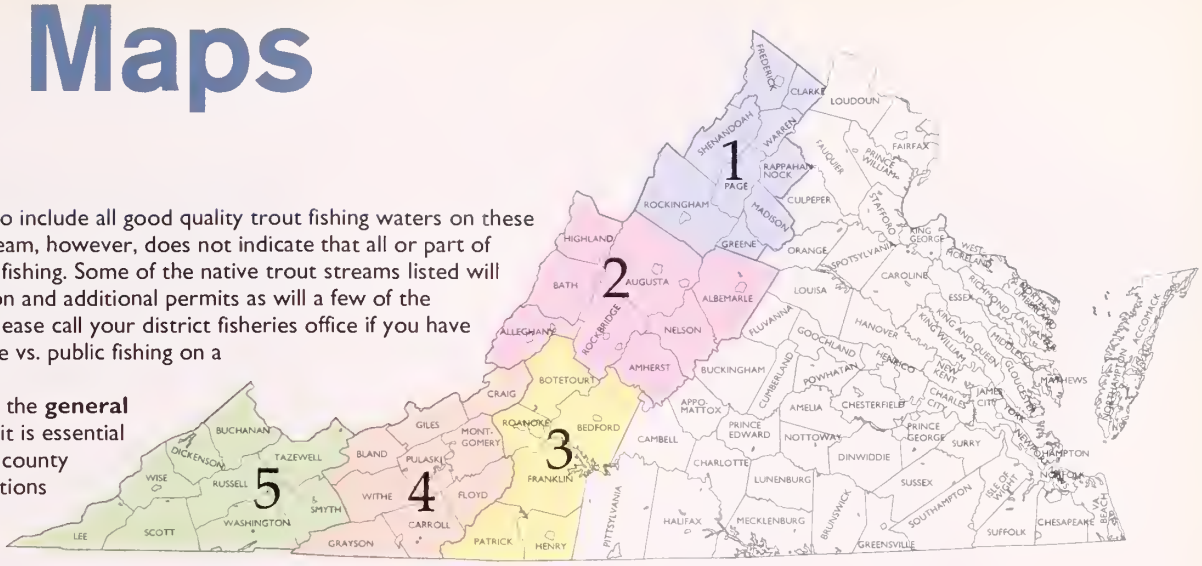
Marion
Rt. 1, Box 107
Marion, VA 24354
540/783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area #1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Frederick County
(1) Hogue Creek
(2) Clearbrook Lake
(3) Winchester Lake
(4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County
(5) Passage Creek
(6) Little Passage Creek
(7) Peters Mill Creek
(8) Stony Creek
(9) Little Stony Creek
(10) Mill Creek
(11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County
(12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
(13) German River
(14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
(15) Dry River
(16) Switzer Lake
(17) Blacks Run
(18) Hone Quarry Lake
(19) Hone Quarry Run
(20) Briery Branch Lake
(21) Silver Lake
(22) Shoemaker River
(23) Madison Run (SNP)
(24) Big Run (SNP)
(25) Smith Creek
(26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County
(27) Naked Creek (SNP)
(28) Cub Run
(29) Upper Passage Creek
(30) Jeremys Run (SNP)

Rappahannock County
(31) Piney River (SNP)
(32) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
(33) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County
(34) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
(35) Robinson River (SNP)
(36) Rose River (SNP)
(37) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County
(38) Conway River
(39) South River

Warren County
(40) Happy Creek

Fauquier County
(41) Thompson WMA Pond

Area #2

Augusta County
(1) North River (Upper)
(2) Elkhorn Lake
(3) Hearthstone Lake
(4) North River (gorge)
(5) North River (Natural Chimney)
(6) Mossy Creek
(7) Ramseys Draft
(8) Braley Pond
(9) Falls Hollow
(10) Meadow Run (SNP)
(11) Paine Run (SNP)
(12) South River
(13) Back Creek
(14) Lower Sherando Lake
(15) Upper Sherando Lake
(16) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
(17) Coles Run Reservoir
(18) St. Marys River

Albemarle County
(19) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
(20) Doyles River (SNP)
(21) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
(22) S. Fk. Moormans River

Allegheny County
(23) Shawvers Run
(24) Jerrys Run
(25) Pounding Mill Creek
(26) Smith Creek
(27) Clifton Forge Reservoir
(28) Smith Creek
(29) Simpson Creek
(30) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County
(31) Douthat Lake
(32) Wilson Creek
(33) Pads Creek
(34) Cascades Creek
(35) Lake Moomaw
(36) Back Creek
(37) Little Back Creek
(38) Back Creek
(39) Jackson River
(40) Muddy Run
(41) Jordan Run
(42) Mares Run
(43) Spring Run
(44) Bullpasture River

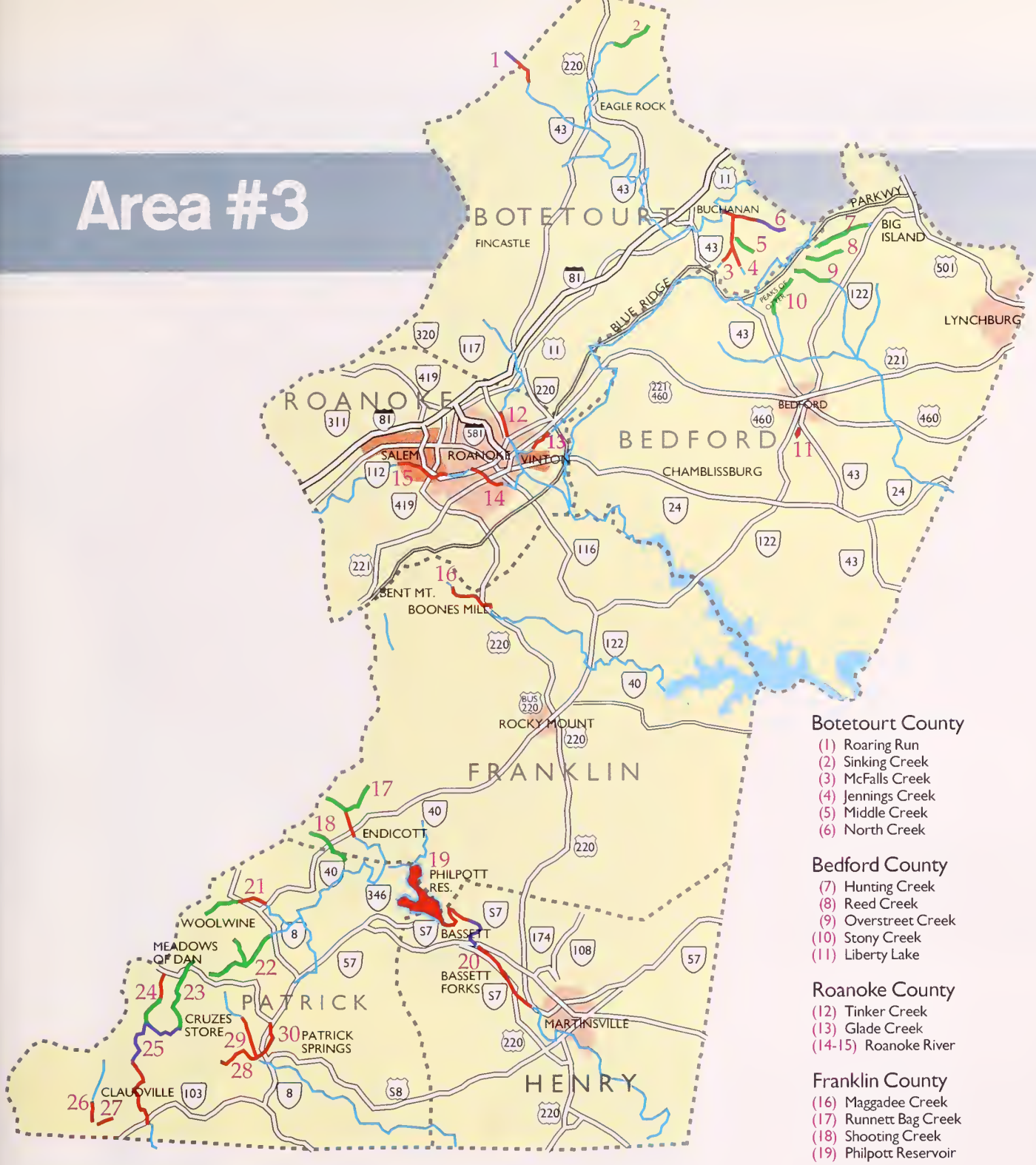
Highland County
(44) Bullpasture River
(45) Benson Run
(46) S. Br. Potomac River
(47) Laurel Fork

Amherst County
(48) Little Irish Creek
(49) Pedlar River
(50) Davis Mill Creek
(51) N. Fk. Buffalo River
(52) Little Piney River
(53) S. Fk. Piney River
(54) N. Fk. Piney River
(55) Rocky Row Run

Nelson County
(56) Shoe Creek
(57) S. Fk. Tye River
(58) N. Fk. Tye River
(59) Tye River
(60) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County
(61) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
(62) Buffalo Creek
(63) Lexington Reservoir
(64) Mill Creek
(65) Guys Run
(66) Maury River
(67) South River
(68) Irish Creek
(69) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Botetourt County
(1) Roaring Run
(2) Sinking Creek
(3) McFalls Creek
(4) Jennings Creek
(5) Middle Creek
(6) North Creek

Bedford County
(7) Hunting Creek
(8) Reed Creek
(9) Overstreet Creek
(10) Stony Creek
(11) Liberty Lake

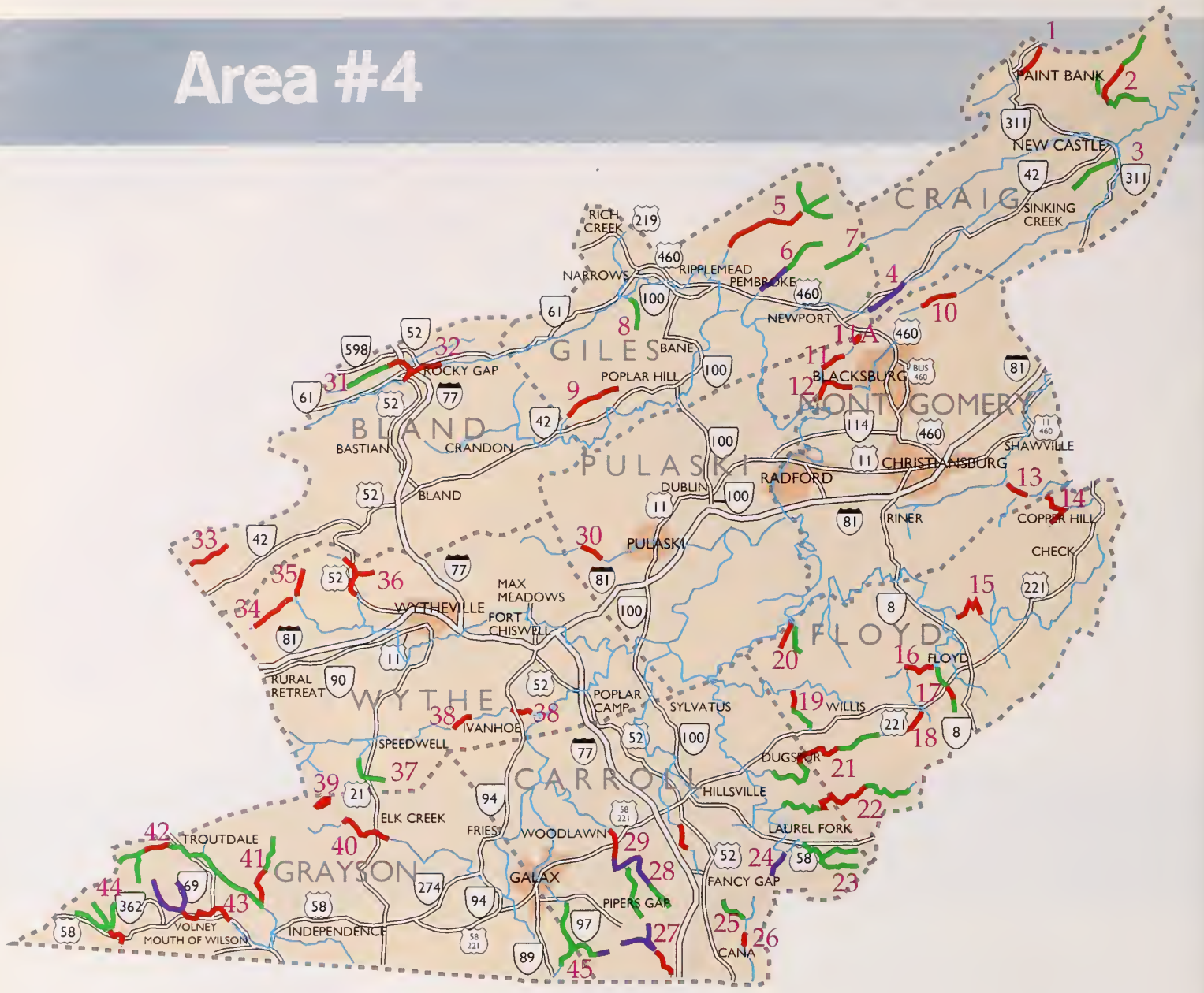
Roanoke County
(12) Tinker Creek
(13) Glade Creek
(14-15) Roanoke River

Franklin County
(16) Maggadee Creek
(17) Runnett Bag Creek
(18) Shooting Creek
(19) Philpott Reservoir

Henry County
(20) Smith River

Patrick County
(21) Rockcastle Creek
(22) Smith River
(23) Dan River
(24) Round Meadow Creek
(25) Dan River
(26) Ararat River
(27) Clarks Creek
(28) South Mayo River
(29) Poorhouse Creek
(30) N. Fk. South Mayo River

Area #4



Craig County
(1) Potts Creek
(2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
(3) Meadow Creek
(4) Sinking Creek

Giles County
(5) Big Stoney Creek
(6) Little Stoney Creek
(7) Johns Creek
(8) Mill Creek
(9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County
(10) Craig Creek
(11) Poverty Creek
(11A) Pandapas Pond
(12) Toms Creek
(13) S. Fk. Roanoke River

Floyd County
(14) Goose Creek
(15) Little River
(16) W. Fk. Little River
(17) Howell Creek
(18) Rush Fork
(19) Mira Fork
(20) Little Indian Creek
(21) Burkes Fork
(22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County
(22) Laurel Fork
(23) Big Reed Island Creek
(24) Snake Creek
(25) Elk Spur Branch
(26) Lovills Creek
(27) Stewarts Creek
(28) Crooked Creek
(29) Little Reed Island Creek

Pulaski County
(30) Peak Creek

Bland County
(31) Laurel Fork Creek
(32) Wolf Creek
(33) Lick Creek

Wythe County
(34) W. Fk. Reed Creek
(35) Guillon Fork/ Guillon Fork Ponds
(36) Stoney Creek
(37) Dry Run
(38) Cripple Creek

Grayson County
(39) Hales Lakes
(40) Elk Creek
(41) Middle Fox Creek
(42) Fox Creek
(43) Big Wilson Creek
(44) Helton Creek
(45) Chestnut Creek

Area #5

Dickenson County
(1) Russell Fork River
(2) Pound River
(3) Flannagan Reservoir
(4) Cranesnest River
(5) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County
(6) Russell Fork River
(7) Dismal River

Wise County
(8) Middle Fork Powell River
(10) Clear Creek
(11) Pound River/ N. Fk.Pound River

Lee County
(12) N. Fk. Powell River
(13) Martins Creek

Scott County
(14) Stock Creek
(15) Straight Fork
(16) Big Stony Creek
(17) Bark Camp Lake
(18) Little Stony Creek

Russell County
(19) Big Cedar Creek
(20) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County
(21) Big Brumley Creek
(22) Big Tumbling Creek
(23) Whitetop Laurel
(24) Straight Branch
(25) Beartree Lake
(26) Tennessee Laurel
(27) Valley Creek
(28) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County
(29) Little Tumbling Creek
(30) Laurel Creek
(31) Roaring Fork
(32) Maiden Spring Creek
(33) Lake Witten
(34) Lincolnshire Lake
(35) Cove Creek

Smyth County
(36) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
(37) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
(38) Staley Creek
(39) Cressy Creek
(40) Dickey Creek
(41) Comers Creek
(42) Hurricane Creek
(43) S. Fk. Holston River
(44) Little Laurel Creek

VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

Clinch Mountain Fee

by William B. Kittrell, Jr.

©Dwight Dyke

Flowing through the 25,000 acre Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area in Southwest Virginia, lies a trout fishing bonanza. One of three Department managed fee areas, the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is home not only to trout, but to some of the most picturesque scenery in Virginia. Shaded by hemlocks and rhododendron, Big Tumbling Creek cascades down the slopes of Clinch Mountain through rugged gorges and over numerous rock ledges to form pristine waterfalls and placid pools. After a thousand foot drop in elevation, the creek finds the valley floor and winds its way through a boulder strewn channel before exiting the fee area and coursing its way to the North Fork Holston River. The cool mountain temperatures and abundant supply of water, supplemented by discharges from Laurel Bed Lake, high above on Clinch Mountain, create trout fishing opportunities from spring through fall.

The scenic backdrop and challenging trout fishery attract thousands of anglers each year. However, other than the number of daily permits sold, very little was known about these anglers, their fishing success, or how valuable this fishery was to the local economy, until an angler survey was conducted during the 1997 fee season. Department fisheries biologists conducted over 800 interviews on Big Tumbling Creek during the six month long season.

Results of the survey yielded both interesting and surprising

Area Angler Survey

information. During 1997, 12,419 daily fishing permits were sold. The anglers who purchased these permits fished a total of 38,570 hours which averaged 3.1 hours per trip. They caught and released about one trout per trip and took home nearly five trout per trip. Success rates were significantly higher on weekends than weekdays. This could have been a function of Department stocking procedures being geared toward estimated fishing pressure or possibly the experience level of the fishermen.

If you stock it, they will come.

How many anglers were visiting for the first time, and how often did repeat customers return? The answers to these questions are very important. Department programs should be tailored to meet the needs and expectations of our customers. First time customers comprised 10.5 percent of the total or approximately 1300 fishermen. Repeat customers averaged 3.6 trips per month, indicating a very loyal clientele has developed. Of the anglers interviewed, 72.5 percent stated that their fishing experience had been either "good" or "excellent." Another 20.9 percent rated their experience "fair," and only 6.6 percent rated their experience "poor."

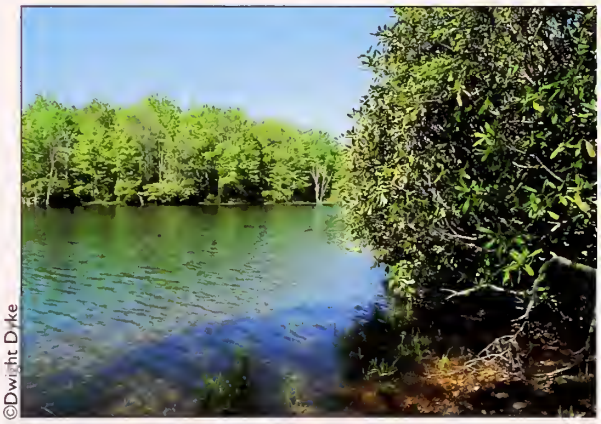
How much does the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area contribute to the local economy? The answer to that question is difficult to assess. However, one component, average trip expenditures, was evaluated. Anglers were asked about their expenditures on items such as gas, food, bait and lodging for that day's fishing trip. Respondents indicated that just over $19.00 was spent on each trip. This means that almost $240,000 was expended on direct purchases by anglers using the fee area during 1997. Considering that this money recirculates in the local economy, the fee area is an important component of the overall Southwest Virginia economy. An additional $50,000 was generated by anglers purchasing the daily fishing permits. These funds were used by the Department for fee area operations and stocking.

Who uses the Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area and where are the anglers who use the area coming from? Of the daily permits sold to Virginia residents during 1997, 44 Virginia counties were represented. However, the vast majority of permits (63 percent), were purchased by residents of Tazewell and Russell counties. Non-residents purchased 7 percent of all the daily permits sold during 1997, and a staggering 22 different states (including Hawaii) were represented. Most of the non-residents (75 percent) came from Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and West Virginia.

This survey indicates that anglers are very successful while fishing at the Clinch Mountain Fee Area and rate their fishing experience above average. Also, the fee area serves a very loyal, local fishing public as well as a significant new customer base each year. Additionally, substantial numbers of anglers from across the region are attracted to the area each year. All these fishermen spend money during their trip and contribute to the local economy. Findings from this survey will enable biologists to better manage the fee area to serve the needs and desires of our trout anglers.

The opening day at Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is at 9:00 a.m. the first Saturday in April. Catchable size rainbow, brown and brook trout are stocked six days a week. In addition to a fishing license, a $4.00 daily permit is required to fish, and there is a six trout per day limit. The season runs through the end of September. For more information, contact the Marion Regional Office at 540-783-4860. □

William Kittrell is the regional fisheries manager for southwestern Virginia.



©Dwight Dyke

©Dwight Dyke

Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area is home to some of the best trout fishing in the state. Laurel Bed Lake high above on Clinch Mountain creates trout fishing opportunities from spring to fall with its cool mountain water.

Journal

Video Review

by Ron Messina

The Sacred Hunt
VHS, Sacred Films
P.O. Box 280
Enterprise, OR 97828
(541) 426-2047

"Men do not hunt to kill; they kill to have hunted." Randall L. Eaton, The Sacred Hunt.

Every hunter who walks into the woods in the early morning, witnesses the sun bring life to the forest, and hears the stirrings of a crisp autumn dawn knows in his heart the act of hunting is more than pulling a trigger. In many ways what motivates the hunter is a search for something deeper, a connection to the physical world and the beauty of nature. This "spiritual" experience is chronicled in a rewarding new video, *The Sacred Hunt*.

In what should be a primer for every young hunter, *The Sacred Hunt* teaches respect for our earth and its animals through the words of American Indians, hunters, philosophers and poets. The video examines why modern man has a deep need to hunt, and traces hunting back to the days when a successful hunt meant survival. While we still harvest animals to enjoy the meat, the video asserts that just enjoying nature is reason enough to go hunting. Today's hunter, according to the video's producer, Randall L. Eaton, is less a "game hog" and more like the tribal warriors of long ago, who approached the hunt as a ritual, and took only what they needed. The video draws heavily on the American Indian hunting philosophy, in which all life is connected. The importance of ethics, game laws and stewardship of the land is also discussed, with special emphasis given to preserving wildlife habitat in this day of seemingly unlimited commercial growth.

The Sacred Hunt isn't a typical hunting video in which scores of big animals are taken. It is an uplifting answer to the question, "Why do I hunt?" The 90-minute video gives many honest accounts of what hunting means to people in all walks of life. After watching this video, one is left with the message that hunting is not the cruel sport animal rights activists would portray it as; but rather a natural, healthy pursuit, that, if approached with an attitude of respect and reverence, can be a sacred path.

NRA's National Firearms Museum

You don't have to be a gun buff to appreciate the National Rifle Association's National Firearms Museum. The 15,000-square foot exhibit, located in the NRA's headquarters in Fairfax, showcases about 2,000 modern and antique firearms and is the third largest gun museum in the country.

From the world's first hand-held guns, right through weapons used in the Gulf War, every era of firearm history can be found here. A musket carried across the Atlantic on the Mayflower by John Alden is on display; so is Dwight D. Eisenhower's gold-inlayed Winchester Model 21 side-by-side 20-gauge shotgun. Annie Oakley's shotgun, Napoleon Bonaparte's rifle, and a few of Theodore Roosevelt's guns are here. The National Firearms Museum is a lesson in both history and art under one roof.

Dozens of original guns from the old West are displayed in well-lit glass cases. Muzzleloaders from the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as muskets from the Revolutionary War, are showcased along with relics from those eras. Even modern sporting shotguns and rifles are on exhibit.

According to museum curator Doug Wicklund, the NRA had to purchase only 7 of the 2,000 guns on display. The rest are either on loan or have been donated by private collectors and NRA benefactors.

The museum is located on Waples Mill Rd. in Fairfax, near Interstate 66 and is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., except on major holidays. There is no admission charge. Call (703) 267-1600. □

"Bezoar Stones In Deer" Correction

In our November 1998 issue of the magazine, we printed the value of a llama bezor stone in an ornate gold holder (*Atocha and Other Treasure Salvages*) for $6,800 it should have read $6,800,000. In addition we would like to ad the chemical composition found in Dr. Mosby's bezoar stones. The light rings were determined to be brushite ($CaHPO_4 \cdot 2H_20$). the dark rings were determined to be newberyite ($MgHPO_4 \cdot 3H_20$). So, as Mr. Gehrken stated in his article, "If you should hear a clank in the tub, dig out the bezoar. You will have a stone not worth $6,800,000 but a one-of-a-kind treasure." □

by Joan Cone

Trout—The Unique Fish

The broad range of these two scenes, from mountain stream to gourmet restaurant, illustrates the uniqueness of trout—its versatility and its adaptability.

Trout has a special, delicate, delicious flavor which can be enhanced by the addition of various breadings, batters, stuffings or sauces.

For a quick, nutritious dinner for family and friends, serve trout and give them a tempting taste treat!

Menu

Trout Mornay
Garden Stuffed Potatoes
Tangerine Salad With Cranberry Dressing
Boston Cream Cheesecake

Trout Mornay

4 boned or dressed trout (about 5 ounces each)
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
2 tablespoons flour
1 ½ cups milk
½ cup grated Gruyère or Swiss cheese
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Minced parsley

If desired, remove heads from trout. Melt butter and blend in flour and milk. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened. Add cheeses, stirring constantly, until cheese melts. Season to taste. Spread half the sauce in a 9-inch square baking dish. Arrange trout on sauce and top with remaining sauce. Cover tightly with aluminum foil. Bake in a preheated 450° F. oven for 12 to 15 minutes; uncover. Serve at once, sprinkled with parsley. Serves 4.

Note: Mornay Sauce may be served with poached, fried or broiled trout.

Garden Stuffed Potatoes

4 (8 ounces each) baking potatoes
½ cup sour cream
6 tablespoons milk
2 tablespoons butter or margarine
Garlic powder to taste
1 can (14½ ounces) mixed vegetables, drained

Microwave Directions: Prick potatoes and place in microwave oven on paper towel. Cook on HIGH 8 minutes; rotate. Cook 8 or 9 minutes more or until easily pierced with a fork. Cut potatoes in halves lengthwise. Gently scoop out potato, leaving ¼-inch around skin. Mash potatoes; stir in sour cream, milk, butter and garlic powder. Season to taste. Fold in vegetables. Fill potato shells with mixture. Cover and cook on HIGH for 5 minutes, turning halfway through. Makes 8 servings.

Tangerine Salad with Cranberry Dressing

Lettuce leaves
2 tangerines, peeled, thinly sliced
2 kiwifruits, peeled, thinly sliced
Cranberry Dressing

On 4 salad plates, arrange lettuce leaves. Arrange tangerine and kiwifruit slices over lettuce. Spoon dressing over salads. Makes 4 servings.

Cranberry Dressing

½ cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
½ cup nonfat or lowfat strawberry or mixed berry-flavored yogurt

In blender container combine cranberry sauce and yogurt. Cover and blend until smooth. Makes about 1 cup.

Boston Cream Cheesecake

1 package (1-layer size) (9 ounces) yellow cake mix
2 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, softened
½ cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 eggs
⅓ cup sour cream
2 squares unsweetened baking chocolate
3 tablespoons butter or margarine
1 tablespoon boiling water
1 cup powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla

Grease bottom of 9-inch springform pan. Prepare cake mix as directed on package and pour batter evenly into springform pan. Bake at 350° F. for 20 minutes. Beat cream cheese, granulated sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed after each addition, just until blended. Blend in sour cream and pour over cake layer. Bake at 350° F. for 35 minutes or until center is almost set. Run knife or metal spatula around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool. Melt chocolate and butter on low heat, stirring until smooth. Remove from heat. Add water, powdered sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla; mix well. Spread over cooled cheesecake. Refrigerate 4 hours or overnight. Makes 12 servings. □

Photo Tips

by Lynda Richardson

"Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" Contest Winners

Congratulations to all who entered this year's "Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" contest! As you may recall from the March 1998 "Photo Tips" column where the contest was announced, we listed the three categories: 1) "Birds of a Feather," 2) "Marvelous Mammals" and 3) "Cold and Clammy Critters." This year, 16 people submitted 88 images taken from around the state.

Here are the winners!

Kathryn M. Collister of Falls Church has done it again! For the second year running, Kathryn has taken first place in a category and this time it's for her American bittern carrying a bullfrog tadpole. To win "Birds of a Feather," Kathryn used a Canon EOS Elan II E with a Tamron 200-400mm lens. Kodachrome 200 was the film of choice. Fabulous shot!

Second place goes to Linda Lee Wilkes of Gladstone for her great action shot of a female cardinal on a snow covered cedar tree. Linda says that this shot was taken from a portable blind on her place, Evergreen Farm, in Buckingham County. Linda used a Pentax K-1000 and a Tokina 400mm lens to capture this neat shot.

An unusual angle of mallards feeding takes third place. Shot by James Dikeman of Norfolk, these mallards were found swimming at the Whitehurst fishing facility, also in Norfolk. James used a Pentax K-1000 SE with a Kalimar 28-105mm lens. Hilarious!

Laurie Dove of Goochland wins first place in "Marvelous Mammals" for her picture of baby gray squirrels peering from a tree. Laurie used a Minolta 5xi camera with a Sigma APO 75-300mm lens. Kodak Royal Gold 200 film recorded the shot at shutter speed 30th of a second at f5.6. Adorable!

Randy Streufert and "producer/encourager" Barbara Streufert of Mason Neck captured second place for their image of three nervous raccoons in a tree at their home on Jacobs Creek. A Minolta Xi7 camera with a 35-70mm, f3.5-4.5 lens was the equipment of choice using Kodak Gold 200 film. Neat shot!

Conservation specialist Robert French of Manassas captures third place with his photograph of juvenile eastern cottontails in their nest. Robert used a Canon Rebel with a 35-80 zoom lens. Cute!

Last, but not least, "Cold and Clammy Critters," is won by Jim Sipple of Springfield for his picture of a spider on a leaf. Jim says that this shot was taken with a Canon AE-1 camera and a 100mm macro lens at Lake Accotink Park in Fairfax County. Beautiful photograph!

Kathryn M. Collister wins

1st Place, "Birds of a Feather," Kathryn M. Collister.

2nd Place, "Birds of a Feather," Linda Lee Wilkes.

3rd Place, "Birds of a Feather," James Dikeman.

1st Place, "Marvelous Mammals," Lanrie Dove.

1st Place, "Cold and Clammy Critters," Jim Sipple.

2nd Place, "Cold and Clammy Critters," Kathryn M. Collister.

2nd Place, "Marvelous Mammals," Randy Streufert.

3rd Place, "Cold and Clammy Critters," Sharon Decker.

3rd Place, "Marvelous Mammals," Robert French.

again with her second place shot of a dragonfly holding its prey. She used the same camera/lens/film combination as mentioned above in her first place shot. Good spotting!

Third place goes to Sharon Decker of Richmond for her shot of a 10 lb. striped bass caught on 6 lb test line on Claytor Lake. Sharon used a Nikon 2000 camera with a 50mm lens shot at 125th of a second at f1.8 using 100 speed film. (I wish I'd had that fish on MY line!) Great catch!

Thanks again to all who entered this years contest. If you didn't win anything this year, don't give up! You'll have another chance to enter the up-coming contest to be announced in the March issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine. Stay tuned and keep those cameras clicking! □

Hats Off to Virginia Wildlife

The staff of *Virginia Wildlife* is proud to offer, for the very first time , *Virginia Wildlife* caps. Each cap is high quality, 100% cotton and embroidered with the *Virginia Wildlife* magazine logo. One size fits all. We have two attractive styles, a. high profile and b. low profile.

The cost is only $15.00 each, which includes shipping and handling. Make check payable to the Treasurer of Virginia. Allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.

Caps may be ordered by writing to Virginia Wildlife Caps, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104